

DOLGELLAU RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



"EIN BRAINT EIN BRO"

A N N U A L

H E A L T H R E P O R T

For the Year 1967

Medical Officer of Health

HUGH FRANCIS,
M.B., Ch.B. D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector

RONALD PUGH JONES,
C.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

DOLGELLAU RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DISTRICT MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1967

TO: The Chairman and Members of the Dolgellau Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Health Report for the year ending 31st December, 1967.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population was 7,060 (6,990 in 1966).

There were 90 live births (93 in 1966) 4 stillbirths and one infant death. There was no maternal death.

The total number of deaths was 112 (109 in 1966) 59 of the deaths were due to strokes or heart circulatory disease including coronary thrombosis.

There was one death due to Tuberculosis and three new cases of this disease were notified.

The table below gives a comparison with the previous five years.

	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Population	7,060	6,990	7,440	7,760	7,740	7,140
Live Births	90	93	80	82	95	96
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 pop.	12.75	13.3	10.75	10.70	12.27	12.43
Infant Deaths	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Total Deaths	112	109	107	112	99	107
T.B. new Cases	3	3	6	2	4	6
T.B. Deaths	1	Nil	2	2	Nil	2
Deaths from cancer	24	16	16	15	12	17

I wish to thank the Public Health Inspector, the Clerk and all the other Council Officials for their help during the year. Finally I wish to thank all the Council members for their courtesy and support.

I remain, your obedient servant,

HUGH FRANCIS
District Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Dolgellau Rural District	-	158,942.
Rateable Value	-	£166,150.
Population (Registrar General's figures)	-	7,060.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	£683: 7s. 5d.
Number of inhabited houses (According to the Rate Books) at end of year	-	3,057.

VITAL STATISTICS

Comparability Factors	-
Births	1.35.
Deaths	0.90.

BIRTHS

LIVE BIRTHS

								<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	90	..	..	..	..	..	..	47	43
Legitimate	85	..	..	..	..	..	..	43	42
Illegitimate	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	12.75.							
1966 figures	-	13.3.							
Illegitimate Live Births (per 1,000 population)	-	0.7.							

STILL BIRTHS

								<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	0.59.							
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	-	42.5.							

<u>TOTAL BIRTHS</u> (live & Still	-	94							
Live	-	90					47	43	
Still	-	4					3	1	

DEATHS

<u>Deaths of Infants Under One Year</u>								<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	1
Legitimate .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	1
Illegitimate .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000. Live Births	-	11.1.							
1966 figures	-	10.75							
Deaths of Legitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 legitimate live Births)	-	11.7.							
Deaths of Illegitimate Infants Mortality (per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births)	-	Nil.							

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS.

								<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	1
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	1
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK OF AGE

Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil	Nil

<u>Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</u>	-	11.1
<u>Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate</u>	-	Nil
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>	-	42.6

MATERNAL DEATHS(including Abortion) Nil

MATERNAL MORTALITY (Rate per 1,000)

Live Still Births	-	Nil
1966 figures	-	Nil

<u>DEATHS</u>	Total Number	..	..	..	112
	Rate per 1,000 population				15.9
	1966 figures				15.6

DEATHS FROM CANCER

Total Number	..	..	..	24
Rate per 1,000 population				3.4
1966 figures	..	..	..	2.43

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

Total Number	..	..	..	1
Rate per 1,000 population				0.14.
1966 figures	..	..	..	Nil

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

- (1) Public Health Officers of the Authority
 One Medical Officer of Health.
 One Public Health Inspector.
 One Technical Assistant.
- (2) Laboratory Facilities
 Water analysis (chemical) carried out by the Public Analyst Chester
 Bacteriological examination of water at the Public Health Laboratory
 Aberystwyth. Examination of milk for cleanliness, keeping quality,
 tuberculosis and brucellosis at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway.

- (3) Ambulance Facilities
Four ambulances and five drivers based at Dolgellau.
One sitting case car.
- (4) Infant Welfare Clinics
At the Village Hall Abergynolwyn on the last Friday in each month.
At Corris Institute on the first Wednesday in each month.
At Dyffryn Ardudwy, Horeb Chapel Vestry on the 3rd Tuesday in each month.
- (5) Ante Natal Clinics
At Dolgellau Hospital on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in each month.
- (6) Orthopaedic Clinic
At Dolgellau Hospital on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month.
- (7) Tuberculosis Clinic
At Dolgellau Hospital on the 1st and 3rd Thursday in each month
- (8) Immunisation
Arrange by the County Medical Officer of Health and carried out at Infant Welfare Clinics and by General Practitioners in their surgeries.
- (9) Hospitals
One Hospital at Dolgellau.
- (10) Infectious Diseases
Total number of Infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year:- 54

Scarlet Fever	Nil
Bacillary Dysentery	2
Whooping Cough	16
Measles	36
Infantile Paralysis	Nil
Pneumonia	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

Pulmonary	-	Total	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	Total	2

NEW CASES

Males	1	Females	Nil
Males	1	Females	1

TUBERCULOSIS DEATHS

Pulmonary	-	Total	1
Non-Pulmonary	-	Total	Nil

Males	1	Females	Nil
Males	Nil	Females	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1967 IN AGE GROUPS

Age Periods	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
2								
3								
5								
10								
15				1				
20								
25	1							
35								
45		1						
55								
65								
75	1							
TOTAL	2	1		1				

CAUSES OF DEATH 1967

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	1	
Tuberculosis other		
Syphilitic disease		
Other infective and parasitic disease		
Cancer Stomach	1	2
" Bronchus	3	
" Breast		5
" Uterus		
" Other sites	5	8
Leukaemia, aleukaemia		
Diabetes		
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	5
Coronary disease, angina	15	9
Hypertension with heart disease		2
Other heart diseases	6	11
Influenza		
Pneumonia	1	1
Bronchitis	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum		
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea		
Nephritis and nephrosis		1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion		
Hyperplasia of prostate		
Congenital malformations		1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	8
Motor vehicle accidents		1
All other accidents	1	2
Suicide	1	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	
	53.	59.

FOOD HYGIENE

Food premises were inspected and advise given when required.

Number of prosecutions Nil.

DOLGELLAU RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Health Department,
Victoria Buildings,
DOLGELLAU.

November, 1968.

To The Chairman and Member of the Dolgellau
Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour in conjunction with Dr. Hugh Francis, your Medical Officer of Health, to submit the section of the Annual Report dealing with the environmental health of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1967.

The year under review was undoubtedly progressive particularly in the housing and sewerage sectors. The large comprehensive sewerage system in Dyffryn/Talybont became functional during the year and the long awaited system in Corris progressed very satisfactorily. Several housing schemes were in various stages of construction and 20 houses were completed and occupied during the year.

The Council's public cleansing services kept apace of demands and I am grateful to the Council for ensuring that sufficient finance is made available to give the public a first class public health service. When the geographical nature of the district is considered, I am sure you will agree that an average cost of 1/6d. per household per week for the collection of refuse is very reasonable.

It is to be hoped that the Government White Paper announced in April 1968 - "Old Houses into New Houses" will be legislated in the very near future so as to provide a real incentive to house owners to carry out improvements.

The White Paper proposes a considerable increase in the grant maximum and it is anticipated that items of structural repair or replacement will be grant aided. The announcement of these changes has undoubtedly slowed down the rate of applications for grant in this district and I earnestly hope that the new Act will come into force early in 1969.

The increasing popularity of the district as a tourist centre is taxing the Council's resources to the limit and it appears very inequitable that essential services such as sewerage, refuse collection and disposal and public health inspectorial control which have to be geared to a seasonal inflated population, do not receive any direct financial acknowledgement from the Exchequer.

The increasing number of visitors and weekend dwellers inevitably leads to increased administration and correspondence with the result that time for practical public health inspection is becoming progressively less.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Council for their continued interest and support in improving the public health standards of the district. The steady progress witnessed in this report is proof that the Council fully accepts its responsibilities and when the available financial resources are taken into account it is amazing how so much progress has been possible.

I am indebted to Dr. Hugh Francis for his loyal support and advise, Mr. Llyr Jones, Technical Assistant for his loyalty and sense of duty, to Mr. B. Williams-Jones, Clerk to the Council, Mr. R. A. Roberts, Surveyor and Mr. M. T. Pritchard, Consultant Architect for their advise and close co-operation at all times. My thanks are also due to the Council's technical and administrative staff and last but by far not least, the outdoor staff, for their faithful support and assistance.

I remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,



B. PUGH JONES
Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

Refuse Tips	123	Disinfestation	7
Refuse Collection	176	Watercourses	6
Drainage	52	New Housing Sites	31
Public Health Act re		Housing Acts	78
Housing defects	43	Housing Acts - re over-	
Factories Act	3	crowding & Housing	
Public Conveniences	71	conditions	14
Caravan Sites	37	Improvement Grants	213
Camping Sites	84	Food and Drugs Act	21
Nuisances	33	Interview with Owners	
Dangerous Structures	4	and Builders etc.	41
Places of Public		Management - Council	
Entertainment	3	Houses	423
Common Land re. Nuisances	7	Miscellaneous	71
Infectious Diseases	3	Private Water Supplies	53

FACTORIES ACT 1937 - 1960

No. of Premises on Register	5
No. inspected re cleanliness	3
No. inspected re Sanitary	
Conditions	3
Defects found	1
Defects remedied	-

ICE CREAM PREMISES

Manufacturing Premises	Nil
Number of retailers	37

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING

The problem of defining unfitness within the yardstick of 'reasonable cost' is becoming increasingly difficult in this area due to the very high demand for holiday and retirement homes. Indeed, as substandard houses become vacant they are usually sold for this purpose and the new owners are fully prepared to co-operate to the fullest extent of the Housing Act requirements. The results thus attained undoubtedly has a twofold effect inasmuch as the unfit house has been dealt with and the housing stock of the district is gradually improved.

With the introduction of waterborne sanitation, particularly in the Corris area, many houses are by today provided with adequate drainage and sanitary conveniences which hitherto could be classed as being very substandard. Even so, I am aware that a number of these houses still cannot be claimed to comply with section 4 of the Housing Act 1957 but due to social factors such as owner occupation, reluctance of aged occupiers to be uprooted from their immediate environment and the high rents of suitable alternative housing, the solution to the problem is far from being easy.

The other class of unfit housing is undoubtedly the substandard farm dwelling, both owner occupied and tenanted holdings which are in a serious state of disrepair and are undoubtedly uneconomic to repair and improve.

Two dwellings were the subject of "Time and Place" Notices and agreements not to re-let four houses were received during the year.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

There was a considerable increase in the number of applications for Standard improvement grants during 1967 and much of this can be attributed to the provision of a sewerage system in Upper and Lower Corris.

The rate at which houses are being improved with the aid of grant still remains extremely disappointing despite all the efforts to stimulate interest in this work. A considerable amount of my time is spent in advising and supervising improvement schemes and I am convinced that this aspect of housing must receive top priority if the overall standard is to improve in this area.

A scheme by the Dolgellau Housing Association to convert Dolserau Hall into 23 flatlets for the elderly commenced during the year. Although the aims of the Association are very commendable, it does not appear that the project will satisfy local need.

Applications for Discretionary grants were down on the previous year and I can only reiterate that the maximum grant of £400 for major improvements to houses in this area is completely unrealistic.

Application for Discretionary Grants received during 1967 (including Dolserau project where 23 units are to be provided)	-	9
Applications for Standard Grant received during 1967	-	49
Discretionary grant schemes completed during 1967	-	9
Standard grant schemes completed during 1967	-	26
Total number of Discretionary Improvements schemes completed 1949 - 1967	-	92
Total sum of Discretionary grants actually paid	-	£28,226: 11: 11.
Total number of Standard grant schemes completed 1959 - 1967	-	103
Total sum of Standard grant actually paid	-	£15,131: 12: 0.

AQUISITION AND IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES BY THE COUNCIL

The Council continue to pursue this policy and particular interest is shown in tenanted houses with a view to carrying out comprehensive improvements and renovations following purchase. Unfortunately, progress in this sector is very slow and I would appeal to the Council to ensure that the living conditions of tenants in acquired houses are improved with the minimum of delay; after all, this is our own 'shop window' in the field of housing improvements and by giving a bold and imaginative lead at least some effect should be seen in the private sector.

Number of houses acquired by the Council up to December, 1968	-	68
Number of properties improved	-	32
Number of houses with improvement schemes in progress as at 31: 12: 67	-	1
Number of houses to be improved	-	35
Negotiation for purchase in progress	-	6

PRIVATE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

Private housing development continued to increase in certain parts of the district, particularly in the Fairbourne and Dyffryn areas.

25 private houses were completed during the year whilst planning permissions were granted for 265 houses.

NEW COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING

Considerable progress was made with the provision of new Council houses during the year as follows:-

Houses completed during 1967

Dyffryn Ardudwy	-	8 - Three Bedroom Houses
Brithdir	-	4 - Three Bedroom Houses
Brithdir	-	4 - Two Bedroom Bungalows
Llwyngwrl	-	4 - Two Bedroom Flats.

Housing Schemes under construction as at 31st December, 1967

	<u>Three Bedroom</u>	<u>Two Bedroom</u> <u>Bungalows</u>	<u>Two Bedroom</u> <u>Flats</u>
Llanegryn	4	4	-
Aberllefenni	8	-	-
Bontddu	-	-	4
Corris	6	-	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICE

REFUSE COLLECTION

This very essential service was maintained at a very high standard during the year and the paper sack system of storage and collection continued to prove its worth in hygiene and efficiency. The use of paper sacks has shown that refuse collection can be dustless and noiseless and the staff find the work cleaner and easier.

There was a marked increase in the volume of refuse removed during the year and there is abundant evidence of changes in the nature and quantity of refuse due to greater use of wrapping material in food packing, introduction of new packing materials and the improved standard of living which are constantly taking place.

The daily collection routes were contained during the year but it is very evident that as housing development proceeds in the Fairbourne and Dyffryn areas, the time will soon come when the present economic routing of the collection vehicle will have to be revised and this will undoubtedly reflect in the overall collection costs.

Over 85% of the district enjoys a weekly collection of refuse whilst the remainder, being mostly isolated farm dwellings, have a collection at least once in every three weeks.

All licensed caravan and camping sites are given a regular weekly collection during the holiday season but due to the definite increase in the volume of refuse it is becoming evident that the larger sites in particular should be serviced more frequently.

Special collection of bulky articles and refuse is undertaken by the Council free of charge and this service undoubtedly reduces illicit dumping in the district.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

The refuse tips at Bontddu and Rhoslefain continued to be used during the year.

The substantial increase in the bulk and nature of refuse deposited is undoubtedly creating tipping difficulties and tipping space at Rhoslefain is rapidly diminishing.

During the year Barmouth Urban District Council and the Council formulated a Joint Tip Committee to manage the site at Bontddu and the control of the tip came under my supervision.

Tipping of the refuse, which was previously undertaken on two separate sites immediately adjacent, is now concentrated at one point. Provision of adequate cover and strict fly control measures abated the serious nuisance which had occurred during previous years.

The Council will be faced with tipping problems in the very near future inasmuch as the Rhoslefain site is rapidly nearing completion, also the life of the Farchynys site has undoubtedly been reduced due to the joint tipping operations

Staff engaged on Public Cleansing

Foreman - Duties consist of relief driver, vehicle maintenance and supervision.

Driver/Loaders - Three

Loader - One

One driver loader is engaged on the Land Rover collection from isolated premises and "night-soil" collection.

No staffing problems were encountered during the year. Generally the service ran smoothly and I am again indebted to the staff for their support in carrying out a job of work, which to say the least, is burdensome and unpleasant.

LITTER

The facilities for the storage and collection of litter functioned quite satisfactorily during the year. It is very evident that the litter problem increases annually and it is imperative that arrangements must be kept constantly under review.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The following villages are provided with public conveniences:-

Abergynolwyn	Dinas Mawddwy	Llanegryn	Ganllwyd
Llwyngwril	Llanfachreth	Dyffryn	
Lower Corris.	Fairbourne (2)	Bontddu	

Construction of new conveniences commenced in Pennal during the year and arrangements were well in hand to erect public toilets in Upper Corris and Talybont beach.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The two sewerage schemes in Upper and Lower Corris progressed very satisfactorily during the year and by December 1967 practically all the houses within the confines of the system in Upper Corris were provided with water borne sanitation. The laying of the sewers and house drains in Lower Corris was also well under way and it was a relief to note the weekly reduction of pail-closet emptying in the area. The provision of proper sanitation in this community will be a long overdue realisation and should be a major contribution in raising the housing standards of the area.

The Dyffryn-Talybont Comprehensive Sewerage Scheme was practically completed by the end of the year and it was a tremendous relief during the summer holiday season to appreciate that the drainage from the large caravan sites in that area was being discharged away from the confines of the camps and that the problems of overloaded septic tanks and water course pollution had been finally resolved.

It is only by constant vigil that the sewerage arrangements in Fairbourne is kept functional particularly during very inclement weather, due mainly to ingress of surface and subsoil water into the sewers and drains. Housing development continued apace and even though costly emergency "transplant surgery" has been applied to resuscitate the system, it is obvious that the Fairbourne - Friog and Arthog area is long overdue for a "major operation" if this popular resort is to develop and not give rise to a serious health hazard.

Plans were in course of preparation to install a sewerage system in Brithdir and during the year under review there was no startling progress in Pennal.

Due to the commencement of Council house building in Aberllefenni, the sewerage scheme was about to start at the end of the year and was planned to be operational before the completion of the houses in Mid 1968.

At the end of 1967 the Council had the following sewerage schemes in various stages of implementation:

Talybont/Dyffryn Scheme	-	Practically complete
Upper Corris	-	Practically complete
Lower Corris	-	In progress
Aberllefenni	-	To commence January 1968.
Brithdir	-	To commence late summer 1968.
Friog/Fairbourne/Arthog	-	Preliminary design stage
Bontddu Sewerage Disposal	-	To commence 1968.
Pennal	-	Design and negotiation stage.

CARAVAN AND CAMPING SITES

Number of Licensed Caravan Sites	-	34
Estimated total number of Caravans on licensed sites	-	2,200

Inspections of the caravan sites during the holiday season did not reveal any serious breaches of the site license conditions and no legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

The urgent need for adequate caravan touring sites again became more evident. The indiscriminate parking of caravans on road laybys and fields is giving rise to serious public health hazards. This unsatisfactory situation must be faced and a realistic solution must be found by the Planning and Health Authorities.

TENTED CAMPING SITES

The summer of 1967 was a repeat of previous seasons. Camping sites are established indiscriminately throughout the district and little or no regard is given to adequate and safe water supplies, sanitary conveniences and refuse storage. The present means of control is ineffective and can be easily evaded by owners and occupiers of land. Undoubtedly there is an urgent need for new legislation comparable to that contained in the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.

WATER SUPPLY

Administration of all the public water supply systems within the Council's area is under the control of the Merioneth Water Board.

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

There are a considerable number of houses in the area served by private water supply systems, mostly shallow springs.

Proposed new sources of supply are submitted for bacteriological examination and advice is given on sources and protection against pollution.

Several schemes were approved under the Standard Grant provision to install a piped supply of water into dwellings. In practically every case, the houses are only used as holiday homes.

Water analysis results were as follows:-

PRIVATE SUPPLIES

<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
17	10	7

PUBLIC SUPPLIES

<u>No. of Samples Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
77	62	15

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Food premises are inspected periodically and on the whole such establishments are found to be satisfactory.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year for contravention of the Regulations.

SHOPS OFFICES AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Number of Premises Registered - 44

Number of Premises inspected
during the year (including - 64
re-visits).

ANNUAL REPORT ON RATS AND MICE.

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1967.

		<u>Type of Property.</u>	
		<u>Non Agricultural.</u>	<u>Agricultural.</u>
Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification		17	11
Number infested by rats		9	11
Number infested by mice		8	-
Total number of properties inspected for rats and mice for reasons other than notification		891	327
Number infested by Rats.	Major	-	1
	Minor	157	80
Mice. Minor		10	3

